



Can the Labour Party win a general election?

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The logic of capitalism means bosses can't clean up their act argues Tomáš Tengely-Evans >>Pages 14&15

We can't rely on the rich to save the planet



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DRIVE OUT THE TORIES

BRING THEM DOWN



STRIKE

Walkout draws more workers out onto picket lines

SECURITY, PORTERS, and post room and reception staff at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy began a two-week strike on Monday.

They have joined cleaners and caterers at the government department in central London, who have been on indefinite strike since mid-July.

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WARMONGERS



British arms firms deal in death at fair

THOUSANDS OF arms dealers have descended on east London to sell their wares to some of the world's most dangerous war criminals.

The Defence and Security Equipment biannual conference marketplace for murder is sponsored by the British state.

>>Pages 10&11

HEALTH

Sexism shapes how menopause is treated

AROUND ONE million women in Britain use Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) to relieve the symptoms of their menopause.

But up to one in 50 women taking the most common form of HRT long term will get breast cancer as a result.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Bees have an advantage in that they cannot accidentally set off landmines'

Ross Gillanders who is training bees in bomb disposal. Though the bees may not be willing participants—they keep stinging him

'Everyone will have the food they need'

Michael Gove, the cabinet minister responsible for the government's no-deal Brexit preparations seeks to reassure the public

'When I hear the name "Boris Johnson", for some reason the words "rope" and "nearest lamp post" come to mind as well'

Author Philip Pullman, who later deleted the tweet and apologised

'He knows exactly what he's done and I hope he comes clean about it'

Virginia Giuffre when asked about Prince Andrew after a hearing for victims of dead abuser Jeffrey Epstein



Police officers caught stealing and abusing



A DETECTIVE who stole £9,000 related to murder cases from a police safe has been jailed.

Detective Sergeant David Sharpe worked for the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire major crime unit when, in a "snap decision", he took the cash.

A court heard his actions had been used in one trial, in which the accused were acquitted of murder, "to undermine the police and the investigation".

He was jailed for 20 months after admitting two counts of theft.

Sharpe, who had been suspended from duty, had previously received a commendation for the very highest standards of detective work.

Cambridge Crown Court heard the cash he stole had been seized by police during two separate murder investigations and placed in a safe.

Prosecutor Marti Blair said on 18 March a police detective went to check if the money from one of the cases had been banked but found it missing.

It was subsequently discovered that



Sergeant Sharpe

money related to another investigation, named Operation Mocha, had also disappeared. Sharpe later admitted to taking the money, saying he "planned to pay it back".

Three men were cleared of murder when Operation Mocha came to trial. Judge David Farrell told the court, "The activities of the defendant figured in the case meant the defence were able to use the facts of the defendant's dishonesty to undermine the police and the investigation."

A Police Community Support Officer has been sacked for targeting female crime victims with sexual messages.

Julian Randall-Stratton was found guilty of misconduct in public office after investigators discovered he was obtaining the contact details of women and girls after they reported offences.

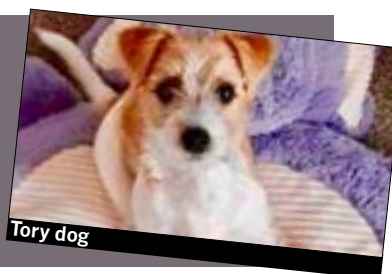
The cop was handed a suspended six-month prison sentence and a night-time curfew, which bans him from leaving home between 7pm and 7am.

A police sergeant who sent an explicit photograph of himself to an undercover officer posing online as a 12-year-old girl admitted grooming offences.

Stephen Shaw, of West Midlands Police, contacted the fake profile of a child on social media—not realising that he was talking to a colleague in the same force.

After telling the girl she could "pass for 15", the 46-year-old officer made numerous comments about sexual acts and sent her a picture of his penis.

FIRST THEY prorogue parliament, now the Westminster Dog of the Year contest, due to take place in the park by the House of Lords on Thursday, has been cancelled because of concerns about protests against the hounds' owners. It's a ruff decision for the only disciplined and loyal members of the government and opposition. So much for "Rex, sit" means "Rex, sit"



Tory dog

A QUARTER of people fear they will need to cut their family food budget to keep their home warm this winter, a survey by moneysupermarket found. And three-quarters said sacrifices would be made, such as using savings.

Paterson's think tank pays for itself

FORMER Defra minister Owen Paterson has had £39,000 worth of flights paid for by a kindly "think tank" called UK 2020.

The organisation was set up and run by Paterson himself.

Its donors are unknown but they've jetted him off to Washington to meet US politicians

The Electoral Commission ruled that, as its sole director is a political party member, UK 2020 must be regarded as a members' association rather than a company.

This means it would have to reveal any donor who gave more than £7,500.

The commission said in



Owen Paterson

March that no donations exceeded £7,500, so the donors did not have to be revealed.

Just to make doubly sure though, Paterson resigned as director of UK 2020 on 20 June.

Paterson works for Lynn's Country Foods, Hi-Peak Feeds and Radox Laboratories.

Payday loan sharks promising kittens

PAYDAY lenders are luring people into debt by urging them to borrow for manicures, junk food and a chance to meet a kitten.

But the loans have been slammed by debt charities, who say they can cause "very real hardship".

Cashfloat, with an annual interest rate of 997 percent, describes its debt plans as "fun money".

Insisting it should not be used to cover emergencies, it urges, "Instead, it's money spent purely as the mood strikes you and on non-essentials."

Lending Stream runs



Cashfloat website

an online competition for an animal charity to bring a kitten to your workplace. Its short term loans carry interest charges of 1,333 percent a year.

And Loan Pig gives tips on apprenticeships and packed lunches, while lending at an annual 1,261 percent.

Queen Elizabeth kills lobsters

FISHERS SAY the dredging of a harbour to berth the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth has created an "ecological and economic" disaster.

In the past five years, ten million tons of material from Portsmouth, home of the ship, and Southampton has been dumped in the Solent.

Fisher John Kennett, of Freshwater, Isle of Wight said, "There have been no small lobster since last August, which indicates they are not strong enough to survive in the silt now lying on the sea bed."

"This is an environmental disaster and an economic disaster for fishing businesses."

Help to buy a 'major failure'

HELP TO Buy has feathered developers' nests but done little to turn tenants into home owners, a study says.

Shelter found 0.2 percent, or 4,100, of the private renting households in England earning £30,000 or less used the scheme last year.

Polly Neate, from the charity said, "It's a major failure that boosts the bank balances of big developers but has nothing to offer the average renter."



Social care is 'on the brink'

THE SOCIAL care system is at risk of "total collapse", an Age UK study warns.

Research suggests the total home care delivered dropped by 3 million hours between 2015 and 2018.

And the charity claims the sector is in desperate need of a long-term plan and substantial funding.

Age UK's Caroline Abrahams said older people increasingly face being left to "fend for themselves".

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Anger on the streets after suspension of parliament

by CHARLIE KIMBER

HUNDREDS OF people protested in Manchester on Monday evening against Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament.

More people were set to protest in central London on Tuesday evening as parliament resumes.

Johnson wants to avoid scrutiny of his no-deal Brexit by shutting down parliament. Around 30,000 people joined a protest in central London last Saturday in response.

Another Europe is Possible, the main organisers, claimed over 100,000 took part.

There was fury at Johnson. Beyond that people came with a range of views.

A substantial number had European Union (EU) flags or anti-Brexit placards. But others were focused on fighting the Tories and getting Johnson out.

Teacher Henry from Walthamstow told Socialist Worker, "It's great to see so many people here at short notice. It's not enough to protest about the latest outrages, the whole Brexit process has to be halted."

But health worker Annette said, "I don't really care what you think about Brexit."

Rule

"For me I think this is our chance to get the Tories out and to end their rule. We have to stop Universal Credit and the attacks on EU nationals."

Shadow home secretary Diane Abbott addressed the crowd and said Jeremy Corbyn had sent his support for the demonstration.

Corbyn addressed a 5,000-strong protest in Glasgow on the same day (see below).

As the London protest began to break up, hundreds of people went on to block Westminster Bridge and the roads around Trafalgar Square.



PROTESTERS IN central London last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

BACK STORY

More than 70 protests took place across Britain last Saturday

● The demonstrations were sparked by Boris Johnson's move to suspend parliament

● Johnson wants to avoid his plans for a no-deal Brexit being defeated by votes in parliament

● Former prime minister Theresa May failed repeatedly to get MPs to back her Brexit deal

● Some protesters want to stop Brexit. The protests should focus on forcing the Tories out of office

They chanted, "You shut down the parliament, we shut down the streets."

Green Party London Assembly member Caroline Russell was among protesters arrested for sitting in the road.

The character of the protests varied across Britain. In some the anti-Brexit theme dominated. In others the focus was much more on pushing to get Johnson out and to force a general election.

In many it was a mix of both moods. There is a big potential to break Johnson's government.

But it won't be realised if the protests are anti-Brexit marches.

They need to connect the latest Tory manoeuvres with the battle against austerity and racism, and the resistance to the attacks on working class people.

Neither the EU nor the British parliament are examples of the democracy we should fight for.

It is revealing that the trade union leaders are almost wholly absent from any intervention in a huge political crisis. Activists and socialists have to try to shape the fightback.

On other pages...

How to make sense of the Tory crisis over Brexit >> Pages 4&5

'This is about democracy'

AROUND 5,000 people joined a strongly anti-Tory rally in Glasgow last Saturday calling for a general election.

The protest was hosted by the People's Assembly and others. It heard speakers including Jeremy Corbyn and Charlotte Ahmed from Stand Up To Racism.

Corbyn said he was backing the protests across Britain.

"Demonstrations are taking place everywhere because people are angered and outraged about what is happening," he said. "Angered that the

government and a prime minister elected by 93,000 members of the Tory party is trying to hijack the needs, aims and aspirations of 65 million people.

"Well think on Boris, it's not on and we're not having it."

Corbyn added, "Fundamentally this is an issue of democracy.

"However you voted in 2016, however you vote in any future election of any sort, the important thing is you should have your voice and your say and your rights." He said the government should "stand aside" for a general election.



PICTURE: ANDREW MCGOWAN

Corbyn in Glasgow

Mixed views at protests

OVER 70 protests took place across Britain last Saturday.

Approximately 5,000 people protested in Brighton. One of the organisers, Mike Parker, said, "We're calling on Remainers and Leavers to send Mr Johnson a message—we won't let him dismantle democracy."

Green Party MP Caroline Lucas tried to use the demonstration to push for a second referendum.

But the overwhelming message from marchers was an anti-Tory one.

Thousands protested in Manchester and over 1,500 took part in Bristol with many protesters joining a chant of, "Johnson out, Corbyn in."

Up to 2,000 people demonstrated in Nottingham. Thousands protested in Leeds where Labour MP Richard Burgon's call for a general election was well received.

Feeling

Up to 4,000 took part in Sheffield with a strong pro-EU feeling from many, although local MPs stressed Johnson's actions were not a Leave or Remain issue.

More than 2,000 people protested in Newcastle. Some waved EU flags but others held placards reading "Bollocks to Boris"—an adaptation of the Remain slogan "Bollocks to Brexit".

Around 800 gathered in Birmingham and 2,000 in Exeter. Swansea saw 400 demonstrate chanting, "Boris, Boris, out, out, out."

About 1,000 took to the streets in Cambridge, 800 in York, 300 in Plymouth and 150 in Northampton.

Chichester saw its biggest demonstration in decades of over 400 people.

Thanks to all those who sent reports

IN THIS WEEK

1957

Homosexuality 'should be legal'

A GOVERNMENT report published on 4 September 1957 said that homosexual behaviour between consenting adults should no longer be a criminal offence.

But the government rejected the proposal by Sir John Wolfenden.

Breakfast in



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For updates and analysis on the stories that matter go to socialistworker.co.uk/breakfastinred



How to make sense of the Tory crisis over Brexit

Tomáš Tengely-Evans dissects the latest stage of the Tory crisis and looks at how the left should respond

Why did Boris Johnson suspend parliament?

BORIS JOHNSON has staked his leadership on Britain leaving the European Union (EU) with or without a deal on 31 October.

But there isn't a majority in favour of that in the House of Commons.

And Johnson faces an alliance of Labour, Lib Dem, Scottish and Welsh nationalist and Tory rebels MPs who want to stop a no-deal Brexit.

The queen approved Johnson's plan to "prorogue"—suspend—parliament last week.

He hopes this will give the opposition less time to push through legislation that could block a no-deal Brexit.

What is 'proroguing'?

THE GOVERNMENT can suspend parliament no earlier than Monday of next week and no later than 12 September.

What is the EU saying?

THE POSITION of the European Union (EU) rulers over Brexit deals has not changed.

While some EU member states may have softened, the EU Commission and the powerful German government have not.

The lead negotiator, Michel Barnier, said that there would be no change to the "backstop" for Northern Ireland.

The backstop is designed to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland if Britain and the EU don't negotiate a trade deal within two years.

Michel Barnier

The suspension would have to end on 14 October. There would probably have been a parliamentary recess during the party conference season from Thursday of next week until 7 October.

So the parliamentary shutdown will amount to MPs losing four to six sitting days.

The power to suspend parliament comes through a royal order of the Privy Council, made up of the queen, ministers and senior politicians.

In practice, ministers have exercised royal powers since the 19th century.

Does Johnson want an election?

TOGETHER WITH the bigots of the Democratic Unionist Party, Johnson effectively has a parliamentary majority of one.

But he has threatened to discipline Tory MPs who vote with the opposition.

They would be kicked out of the Tory parliamentary group and banned from re-standing at the next election.

This would allow Johnson to push



EUROPEAN UNION supporters have joined the protests against Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

for an early general election on the theme of "people vs the politicians".

The Old Etonian toff could try to present himself as an "anti-establishment" outsider.

What is Labour doing?

LABOUR IS a part of a cross-party attempt to stop a no-deal Brexit.

Leader Jeremy Corbyn has said the party would introduce legislation—which would have to pass through the both the Commons and Lords by Monday.

Labour is right to oppose a no-deal Brexit.

But lining up with austerity-mongers and racists is no progressive alternative to Johnson.

If anything, it could strengthen Johnson's attempt to present himself as "anti-establishment".

The recent picture of Labour's John McDonnell, Lib Dem Jo Swinson and former Tory Anna Soubry meeting to unite against no deal will make that easier.

The opposition don't have long to get legislation through before parliament is suspended—but it could happen.

Tory cabinet minister Michael Gove last weekend refused to rule out ignoring any legislation passed.



Columnist and Labour member Owen Jones protesting last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Should the left oppose no deal?

A TORY no-deal Brexit is a real threat to workers and migrants.

The Tories see the shock of a no-deal Brexit as an opportunity to push through more austerity and racism.

For instance, home secretary Priti Patel has said it would allow the government to end free movement for migrants overnight.

But almost all opposition to a no-deal Brexit is couched in terms of what's good or bad for big business. And, unfortunately, this

includes many of the Labour Party and the union leaders who've lined up with business.

Big business and their allies in parliament aren't worried about the impact of no deal on ordinary people. They want austerity, privatisation and a race to the bottom in or outside of the EU.

Any version of Brexit—whether hard, soft, deal or no-deal—will be bad for workers so long as it's based on Tory policies.

We need a Brexit that serves working class interests.

The best response to any attacks by the Tories or bosses is united action in the workplaces and on the streets, not lining up with bosses.

What is big business saying?

BIG BUSINESS is panicking.

The Financial Times (FT) newspaper and the Economist magazine last week both came out in favour of bringing down the Johnson government.

The FT was even willing to contemplate Corbyn at the head of a caretaker government that would—at least temporarily—stop Brexit.

This shows the depths of the British ruling class crisis—and the division between the Tories and capital over Brexit.

Some Labour politicians see this as an opportunity to win big business backing.

But business is opposed to even the most moderate reforms.

On Monday the FT was outraged at Labour's plan to give £300 billion of company shares to workers.

What would be the reaction if a Labour government went for widespread public ownership?

Big business wants to stay within the EU's single market because it protects its profits.

What's the solution?

WE NEED workers' action to force out Johnson and the whole Tory regime of austerity and racism.

Labour and union leaders have said the suspension of parliament amounts to a "coup"—so they should match their rhetoric with action.

They must back the present protests, but should also push for mass strikes and protests to force out Johnson.

The working class is divided between Remain and Leave supporters.

Raising slogans of, "Tories out—general election now," and, "No to austerity, no to racism," can unite ordinary people in action.

Action over Johnson's measures has to be linked to wider class battles.

Protests to block Brexit, which are not open to Leave voters, will not work.



PICTURE: ANDREW MCGOWAN

A protester in Glasgow

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

A RADICAL LABOUR CAN WIN A GENERAL ELECTION

THERE WAS a strong possibility that Boris Johnson was about to call a snap general election as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.

We should welcome a general election as an opportunity to drive out Johnson and the Tories.

But could Jeremy Corbyn and Labour win?

The answer is yes—but not if Labour becomes a "moderate" party of Remain.

That's the lesson from the general election in 2017, when Corbyn defied all predictions and denied Theresa May a majority of her own.

Labour focused on class issues and the manifesto was its most radical in over a decade.

It promised to defend the NHS from privatisation, scrap tuition fees and bring in £10 an hour minimum wage and union rights.

The rhetoric was radical, as Corbyn pledged to "overturn the rigged system" that has "protected the interests of the few".

And he led an insurgent campaign, holding big rallies that helped to shift the mood on the ground.

Only a radical campaign can win.

And Labour also should at least accept the Scottish parliament's right to decide if it wants another independence referendum.

Johnson has positioned the Tories as the party of a racist Brexit and law and order in a general election.

He hopes that he will be able to win back right wing votes from Nigel Farage's Brexit Party.

The wrong response is for Labour to be the Remain party.

At the last election around two thirds of Labour's voters were people who had backed Remain—but around one third had voted Leave. And Labour did lose five seats to the Tories.

All of the constituencies, some

“It needs a class programme of defending rights and confronting the bosses”

of which Labour had held since the 1930s, had voted Leave.

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell thinks he can use opposition to Brexit to show that Labour is a "responsible" party of government.

He boasts that bankers and bosses are willing to have discussions about the party's economic policies.

It is a fiction and folly to think that big business won't oppose Labour's policies if it adopts a Remain position.

Big business is angry with the Tories.

It wants to stay within the European Union's single market, because its neoliberal rules protect profits.

Labour has to have a class programme of defending workers' and migrants' rights and confronting the bosses.

What happens outside parliament is still important.

When people struggle in the streets, workplaces and campuses, they can shift the mood in society to the left.

And we need to build bigger fights over austerity, racism and climate change now, not just staking everything on the election.

TORY FUNDS FOR THE RICH

AFTER NEARLY a decade of austerity, the Tories are pledging more money for services and workers' wages.

Funnily enough their promises come ahead of talk of a general election.

Chancellor Sajid Javid was set to unveil his Spending Review on Wednesday. Boris Johnson has already made a number of funding pledges, such as a £14 billion increase for schools.

But no one should trust the Tories. Johnson said the money for

schools will make sure that every child has a "superb education". It won't.

Some 93 percent of the schools that will get more money are in Tory constituencies.

The £14 billion covers funding between 2020 and 2023—so there will be no extra money for any schools this year.

And the amount pledged for 2020-21 is just £2.6 billion.

Schools lost 8 percent from their budgets in real terms between 2009-10 and 2017-18.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies in June said schools need an extra £3.8 billion a year just to bring their real terms funding back to 2009-10 levels.

On top of that, they need £1.1 billion to make sure the budgets aren't cut again until 2023.

The Tories' pledges aren't about helping ordinary people. Instead they hope their promises will help them keep seats in an election and dampen down the struggle to defend services.

We shouldn't fall for them.



ANALYSIS

CHARLIE KIMBER

Fight for a genuinely democratic society

ON MANY of the demonstrations against Boris Johnson there are placards calling to “defend democracy”.

That sentiment has a broad echo. For the Financial Times newspaper Johnson “has detonated a bomb under the constitutional apparatus”. It is an attack on “the seat of British democracy, long admired worldwide”.

Socialists should be for the defence and extension of any democratic rights, especially as economic and political turmoil have seen such rights under attack in many parts of the world. But far from subverting an otherwise glorious system, Johnson’s manoeuvres have illustrated how limited “British democracy” really is.

This works on lots of different levels. For a start, people we never vote for are a part of it.

During recent events the parasitical monarch played a role in the way decisions are made.

Jacob Rees-Mogg was despatched to Balmoral to secure the queen’s agreement to Johnson’s decision to prorogue parliament. And this week another unelected element shuffled into prominence—the House of Lords. Whatever MPs decided, it was possible that the Lords, including 91 hereditary peers, could block a decision.

In any case cabinet minister Michael Gove last weekend refused to confirm that the government would implement what parliament voted for anyway. None of this goes against the present laws and regulations.

MPs face virtually no accountability to those who voted for them. Mike Gapes and Chukka Umunna were elected as Labour MPs. But they could defect to The Independent Group for Change or the Lib Dems without any mechanism to enforce a by-election.

A petition to remove your MP can be used only if they are found guilty of serious criminal offences or are found to have fiddled their expenses.

Many MPs, elected under manifestos to respect the Brexit referendum result, are working flat out to overthrow it.

For most of history prime ministers have been able to commit British troops to war without parliamentary approval. This changed over Iraq.

But in that case parliament was lied to with the active engagement of most of the British political establishment, the spies and the media.

Much more fundamentally the whole system is designed to be an obstacle to fundamental change, not to enable it.

Parliament is part of a wider method of governing in the interests of a minority.

Committed

The judges, the senior civil service, most of the media, the military, the armed forces, the police, and the heads of the education system are all committed to capitalism.

After Jeremy Corbyn was elected Labour leader, an army general openly said that there might have to be a mutiny if he wanted to dump nuclear weapons or pull Britain out of Nato.

Some people in these institutions—just like sections of big business—are now outraged and angered by what Johnson is doing. That won’t change their readiness to unite with Johnson if necessary against Corbyn, let alone any genuine movement of working class people.

Parliament is wholly open to economic pressure—investment strikes, runs on the pound, soaring costs to borrow money—as nearly every Labour government has found.

The ruling class ensures we don’t get to vote on what the economy produces or how it’s produced—or who gains and loses out in the process.

Many people are aware we don’t really live in a democracy. In July a poll found 63 percent of people feel Britain’s system of government is rigged to the advantage of the rich and powerful.

We shouldn’t be defending what we already have, we should be fighting for real democracy.

As the Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin wrote in 1918, “Bourgeois democracy, although a great historical advance in comparison with medievalism, always remains, and under capitalism is bound to remain, restricted, truncated, false and hypocritical, a paradise for the rich and a snare and deception for the exploited.”



FOUR NEW groups of workers have joined the action

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Strike over pay draws more workers out onto picket lines

by NICK CLARK

A MAJOR battle over low pay and outsourcing stepped up a notch on Monday, as new groups of workers joined the strike.

Security, porters, and post room and reception staff at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) began a two-week strike on Monday.

They have joined cleaners and caterers at the government department in central London, who have been on indefinite strike since mid-July.

The members of the PCS union are demanding that outsourcers, ISS and Aramark, pay them the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour.

They also want increased holiday pay, sick pay, and ultimately to be brought back in house.

One security striker, Kenneth, told Socialist Worker, “The London Living Wage is £10.55, but they are giving us £9. It’s not enough.”

“The rent in London is high. When you look at travel expenses in London, it can be £200 a month. And then at the same time we’ve got children. The money in our hands is not enough. We need to earn at least £2,000 a month to survive.”

He added, “Security work here is tough. This is

a sensitive location, this is Westminster. We are the people protecting the ministers—and yet they refuse to pay us the London Living Wage.

“Without a strike, there’s no way they’re going to pay us. We need to fight for our rights.”

The security, post, porters and reception workers plan to picket every day of their two-week strike, which is set to end on 13 September.

They’ll follow it up with a programme of “rolling industrial action”—with five



Cleaners and caterers have been striking since June

days-on strike and five days off—until 1 November.

They hope their action will be enough to win. Bosses at Beis, ISS and Aramark have so far refused to negotiate, and brought in workers from outside to break the strike.

Listening

One security striker said, “The cleaners and the caterers have been out indefinitely. But they’re not listening to them.”

“This time we are proposing to go out until the first week in November. We believe this will have a big impact on the services and they’ll come to the table.”

He added, “For the service, I think I should be at work. But because of the injustice and the way my family is suffering, that’s why I’m here.”

Kate, one of the workers on indefinite strike, said being joined by others meant, “The picket line has more than doubled.”

“It’s brought some enthusiasm to the picket line.”

“We’re going to be here outside the building every day for two weeks. It’s noisy—we’re making a statement.”

“We’re still feeling strong,” she added. “We haven’t heard anything yet—but we’re still going to win.”

Strikers are inspiration

THE STRIKE at Beis should be a beacon for low-paid, outsourced workers everywhere.

Low-paid agency work is an issue that affects workers not just across government departments, but in many other industries too.

If the strikers at Beis win, they could be an example and an inspiration to other workers and trade unionists.

Their fight should

become a high-profile dispute in the trade union movement—and every trade unionist should support them.

●Organise collections for the strike fund, and find out how to donate at bit.ly/PCS-strike-fund

●Send messages of support and invite a striker to speak to your union branch. Email leeds@pcs.org.uk

●Visit the picket line at 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET

Join the picket lines



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Collusion between French and British states imperil refugees

Last week an Iraqi man died while trying to swim across the English Channel—and now new measures introduced will further endanger the lives of migrants fleeing poverty and war

TORY HOME secretary Priti Patel and the French interior minister met last week.

They discussed how to force through a new round of repression against refugees in Calais and Dunkirk.

The meeting between Patel and Christophe Castaner came two days after a refugee's body was found floating in the English Channel.

The Iraqi man, who had tried to swim from France, is the first recorded refugee death in the Channel.

He was one of the 600 refugees trapped in northern France who are trying to come to Britain.

Castaner tweeted that he was happy to receive Patel at the ministry.

He said they would discuss "new avenues of cooperation" to "combat illegal Channel crossings".

They agreed to increase the number of patrol boats and surveillance, including aerial drones.

UK Border Force (UKBF) and French police patrol vessels have intercepted a number of boats in the Channel since 22 August.

There were at least 220 refugees, including at least 40 children, on board.

The Tories are trying to manufacture another racist panic about refugees arriving in Britain.

The numbers involved are minuscule compared to the total number of refugees who have been forced to seek safety in Europe.

Around 539 people tried to cross the Channel in 2018—while 115,000 tried to make it across the Mediterranean Sea.

Many refugees from Iraq, Iran and Libya choose Britain because of family connections.

Others do so because they speak English or have had asylum claims rejected elsewhere in Europe.

Worsening

There has been an increase in Channel crossings in the last month, but this reflects the worsening conditions in northern France.

Police repeatedly smashed up the makeshift settlements.

They sometimes leave refugees without tents or a pair of shoes.

Aid organisations are finding it difficult to keep up in the French state's war of attrition.

A further wave of violence will not stop people trying to make it to Britain—it will only make the journey deadlier.

Marta Welander, executive director at Refugee Rights Europe, said, "Heightened border security has been accompanied by



REFUGEES LIVE in terrible conditions in northern France

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

increased hostility by the French state towards displaced individuals in the area.

"This has taken the shape of high levels of police harassment, intimidation, violence and frequent evictions from living spaces.

"We call on the UK government to urgently provide expanded safe and legal routes to prevent future tragedies."

The refugees trapped in France have fled war, dictatorship and poverty—the only solution is to open the border and let them in safely.

The hard right anti-EU Patel and the liberal pro-EU Castaner are united against that, shaking hands on repression, fear and death.



On other pages...

We can't rely on the rich to stop climate change >>Pages 14&15

Johnson spurs attacks

RACIST REMARKS by Boris Johnson led to a "surge in anti-Muslim attacks", according to the charity Tell Mama.

Johnson wrote that Muslim women who wear the burqa look like "letter boxes" and "bank robbers" in the Daily Telegraph in August 2018.

In the week after the column, attacks on Muslims shot up by 375 percent—from eight the previous week to 38. And 22 of

those incidents involved hate directed at Muslim women who wear a face veil.

The Tell Mama survey found that there were two significant spikes in Islamophobic attacks in 2018.

One was during the "Punish a Muslim Day" at the beginning of April.

This was after racist letters were sent to public bodies inciting violence against Muslims.

But the one following Johnson's article was more significant.

The stats show Boris Johnson is dangerous

Glasgow Serco evictions in court

PRIVATE LANDLORD Serco could begin evicting some 300 asylum seekers in Glasgow as early as this week.

At least five people have already been made homeless since last month.

Sabir Zazai, CEO of the Scottish Refugee Council, said, "We are now facing a significant humanitarian crisis in Glasgow."

"We expect Serco and the Home Office to begin evicting people on a mass scale in a matter of days, despite ongoing legal proceedings."

"The stark truth is there is nowhere safe, dignified and appropriate for victims to go, and Serco and the Home Office know that."

Bosses at Serco have been trying to empty the stock before new landlord the Mears Group takes over this month. They provide housing for asylum seekers on a contract to the Home Office.

The Glasgow Sheriff Court temporarily blocked a further 100 evictions on Friday of last week.

Lawyers argue that Serco's strategy of sending letters to tenants informing them that their locks will be changed isn't lawful. They say that landlords require a court order to evict someone under Scottish law.

The ruling from the Ali vs Serco and the Home Office court case will decide whether lock change notices are unlawful.

Activists protested outside the court in Edinburgh as the case was heard last Wednesday.

Prevent targets climate activist

A RETIRED doctor was reported to the "Prevent" programme for taking part in the Extinction Rebellion (XR) protests.

Prevent forces public sector workers to spy on colleagues and service users for signs of "radicalisation".

Lyn Jenkins, 69, was reported to Prevent by his NHS Trust after he sought help for his claustrophobia, fearing he would have a panic attack if arrested.

It shows terror laws are a threat to everyone's civil liberties.

But the overwhelming majority of people targeted are Muslims, not white left wingers.



Protests and strikes in Hong Kong as cops ramp up violence

Defiant action by protesters has been met with increasing levels of brutality, writes **Sadie Robinson**

WORKERS IN Hong Kong began a two-day general strike on Monday as the pro-democracy movement entered its 13th week.

The strike involves workers from over 20 sectors including construction, transport, retail and tourism. The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions estimated that some 350,000 joined a general strike on 5 August.

Health workers held protests inside the Prince of Wales and Queen Mary hospitals in support of demonstrators.

Student strikes hit over 90 universities on Monday, while school students across Hong Kong also struck. Organisers expected up to 10,000 to strike across 200 schools.

Students wearing gas masks and yellow helmets formed human chains outside schools. They plan to strike every Monday.

Secondary school teacher Ng Mei-lan told a student rally on Monday afternoon, "I have been on the front lines."

"I never thought that as a civil servant, a middle aged teacher, that I would be so changed by this movement."

Sit-in

The action followed a weekend of defiant protests. Activists held a sit-in at Hong Kong's international airport, using barricades and fires to fend off riot police. They forced the cancellation of over 40 flights.

One demonstrator said, "If we disrupt the airport, more foreigners will read the news about Hong Kong."

Protesters also targeted train stations after MTR, a mostly government-owned firm, shut down stations close to protests last

BACK STORY

The movement began in June against a new extradition law

● Chief executive Carrie Lam suspended the bill

● The fight is on to get it axed

● Demands now include more democracy and Lam's resignation

● Protesters also want an investigation into police violence

week. In Tung Chung, protesters flooded the MTR station with fire hoses and the company was forced to close five lines on Saturday night.

Police attacked protesters with tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon over the weekend.

They also fired live warning shots, and attacked people inside a train station with pepper spray and batons.

A number of high-profile activists were arrested last week. And Hong Kong's biggest airline, Cathay Pacific, has threatened to sack workers who strike.

Hong Kong's top security official John Lee said on Monday that protesters' actions were "escalating to a point of terrorism". But the authorities' hard line is radicalising many people.

"The government has shown us that peaceful protests are useless," said Issac Cheung from the Demosisto pro-democracy party.

"The strike shows our determination to continue fighting."



On other pages...

The British arms firms dealing in death >>> **Pages 10&11**

Far right gains in Germany

FAR RIGHT party Alternative for Germany (AfD) made substantial gains in elections in Saxony and Brandenburg on Sunday.

The AfD came second in both, with a projected 28 percent of the vote in Saxony, and 24 percent in Brandenburg.

For the conservative CDU and Labour-type SPD, the results were the worst since German reunification in 1990.

The CDU's vote was down by six percentage points and the

SPD by five. The AfD has gained from anger about the state of the economy. Unemployment in east Germany is low, but wages and working conditions are lower than in the west.

The elections followed a week of anti-fascist actions including a thousand-strong march in Dresden. These helped to restrict the AfD vote, which was lower than polls had suggested.

The results still show why the movement against the far right must grow across Europe.

PROTESTERS FACED violent attacks from cops

Austerity and racism is on the cards for new government of chaos in Italy

ITALY LOOKED on the verge of having a new unstable government as Socialist Worker went to press.

Prime minister Giuseppe Conte's tenure, based on the populist Five Star Movement and the far right League, lasted 14 months. It collapsed last month, when Conte resigned under pressure from the League party's Matteo Salvini.

Conte is likely to form a government backed by a coalition of Five Star with the Democratic Party (PD). Elections could be postponed until 2023 while austerity measures are imposed.

The PD was booted out in the 2018 general election. The centre left party came to office in 2014 because voters rejected austerity, but it pursued cuts. And it opened the door to racism with clampdowns on migrants.

Five Star portrays itself as anti-establishment but propped up all

of the League's racism. An EU-approved spending plan requires a budget by October which will include £23 billion public sector cuts.

Luigi Di Maio, the nominal leader of Five Star, spent most of his political career accusing the PD of everything from corruption to child trafficking.

But when he realised that allying with them was the only alternative to an election he agreed to join forces.

The risk is that the new government will further embolden Salvini—the deputy prime minister and the League's leader.

In the most recent elections, Five Star lost half its votes while the

League's doubled. Salvini likes to play the strongman. He recently gave lectures barechested on beaches, went on angry tirades, waved and kissed the Catholic rosary on the podium. All the time he was ratcheting up a racist rhetoric and a racist reality against migrants and Roma people.

Salvini has called on his supporters to protest against the coalition being formed. He called for demonstrations over the next two months in Pontida—in the League's northern heartlands—and in Rome.

Opposition to Salvini from racist neoliberal technocrats who want to pursue a politer version of the same policies is useless. It needs to come from the left and the workers' movement on the streets.



Salvini on a beach

Simon Basketter

Labour has to mobilise students

A POLL last week suggested support for Labour among students has dropped to its lowest level in four years.

Labour still has by far the biggest support. The survey found that 38 percent of those who are eligible and likely to vote would back Labour.

But that's down from 70 percent in February last year.

The figures suggest a surge in support for Remain parties, such as the Liberal Democrats.

It's another sign of the disastrous effect of Brexit dominating political life.

Labour hasn't been active enough in pushing its excellent anti-austerity policies and mobilising students.

If there were real calls for students to be active against the Tories it would be much easier to win them to Labour's vision.

It clearly is the best for young people and everyone else.

It's incredible that the Lid Dems, who so shamefully betrayed over tuition fees, have regained some backing.

It doesn't help that the Labour Students organisation is such a farce. There were just 507 eligible voters in its leadership elections this year.

Yet there are 30,000 who pay Labour's student membership rate.

Young people were important in the 2017 general election and they will be again next time.

Labour has to mobilise students now.

Susan Rose
East London



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Tackling crime means major change in economic system

SADIE ROBINSON (Socialist Worker, 21 August) accurately describes the way the Tory government is creating a climate of fear in order to bring in authoritarian policies.

She correctly identifies the poverty and isolation created by the capitalist system as being one of the major drivers behind crime.

Further proof of this can be found by looking at any local newspaper. Day after day pages are filled with stories about people who have been convicted for stealing food because they have been left destitute by harsh benefit sanctions.

An extra 20,000 police officers will do nothing to address the deep-seated social inequality stalking many communities, often driving

desperate people to crime. The real answer is a radical rebalancing of the economic system in the interests of working people, their families and their communities.

Crime is present at some level in all societies.

But under a fairer, socialist, economic system its prevalence would be greatly reduced.

Where crime did still occur, it would be addressed through restorative justice delivered in the community with an emphasis on rehabilitation.

These are exactly the sort of approaches to dealing with crime that the Tories have consistently starved of funds.

Their preferred approach is to be

“tough” on crime by putting more boots on the ground and, maybe, batons facing an angry populace.

Adam Colclough
Stoke-on-Trent

“FEAR COPS not Crime” (Socialist Worker, 21 August) is not the emotion most people feel when they are victims of crime and these days they get angry when the police don't turn up.

The police are not a homogenous mass. Most are ordinary human beings.

Socialists must strive to get all groups together and that includes the police and military.

Philip Chambers
Molesey

The fires are burning in central Africa too

OVER A period of two days recently Angola in central Africa had roughly three times more fires than Brazil.

There were 6,902 fires in Angola and 3,395 fires in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. For comparison there were 2,127 fires in Brazil.

What's happening in the Amazon is horrendous, but it is not an isolated example.

Some of the African fires may be started by farmers. They cut down some of the

vegetation and set fire to the rest in order to clear the land to plant crops.

The “slash and burn” technique can lead to deforestation, soil erosion and a loss of biodiversity.

But it is the cheapest way to clear land and the ash provides nutrients for future crops.

Capitalism both leads to global warming and creates poverty that leads to unsustainable practices.

Both are deadly.

Hannah Williams
West London

How my local football club was buried

THE FOOTBALL club I have supported since I was a child collapsed last week.

Bury FC disappeared after people who had considered buying it said there were “systemic failings” that made it too much of a risk.

With capitalist market-led priorities trumping all other considerations, other clubs could go the same way. Bolton only just survived last week when it was bought out.

Bury collapsed because of the ruinous financial processes of professional football.



Distraught fans

Just nine months ago the club was sold for £1 to Steve Dale, a local building and property magnate.

Previously it had been owned by another businessman who lumbered the club with a ruinous mortgage.

For many people a football club is simply a business like any other.

Bury was reduced to an asset-stripped shell, sunk by debt and mortgaged to a company based in Malta via the British Virgin Islands.

The Premier League's 20 clubs made record revenue of £4.8 billion over the 2017-18 season.

Yet there is not enough cash for a club like Bury to survive.

Capitalism invades every area of our lives, and distorts every sort of pleasure.

Margaret O'Reilly
Manchester

Just a thought...

Time for us all to rise up

THE PEOPLE must rise to close London roads, form rings around parliament, and train stations.

This government is a lying stain on our history.

The unions and the people need to shut down the country to show this government they are not all powerful.

People have taken their own lives because of the hurt caused by this government.

People rise up.

Name and address supplied

Does the TUC have any role?

IT COULDN'T be a better time for the TUC union congress to meet.

There is the crisis over Boris Johnson suspending parliament. And there are actions planned over climate change.

But I can virtually guarantee that there will be virtually no concrete action by the TUC.

Is it still worth anything?

Andy Graham
On Facebook

Labour wrong on Scotland

I CHEERED when I heard that the Labour Party leaders were saying they would not block a second referendum on Scottish independence.

But then last week Jeremy Corbyn said that in the “formative years” of a Labour government he would prevent one.

Goodbye to loads more votes.

Malcolm Jenner
Paisley

Great response to the bigots

BEFORE Manchester's recent Pride festival, Alan Hancock hung a rainbow flag from a window in his house in Old Trafford.

Soon after he was subjected to homophobic abuse and threats of violence. He reported the incident on Facebook.

Alongside a huge online wave of support, a neighbour hung a flag from her window and put in an emergency order for more.

It ended with over 30 of his neighbours in Wellington Crescent hanging out rainbow flags in solidarity.

John Murphy
Stockport

THE BRITISH ARMS FIRMS DEALING IN DEATH

Arms deals, generals and government officials have gathered at the DSEI arms dealers’ conference in east London this week. Gabby Thorpe investigates their industry of death

THOUSANDS OF arms dealers have descended on east London to sell their wares to some of the world’s most dangerous war criminals. The Defence and Security Equipment (DSEI) biannual conference is one of the biggest events in the military calendar. It is a marketplace for murder sponsored by the British state. Britain has invited representatives from some of the most repressive governments in the world, including Saudi Arabia, Israel and the United Arab Emirates. A third of all British arms exports go to 18 out of 30 countries listed on the United Nations (UN) watchlist for human rights. The DSEI fair is an important event because the British state still sees the arms industry as central to its interests. The British-based BAE Systems is the world’s third biggest arms company. And in 2018 Britain sold a staggering £14 billion worth of arms, reclaiming its position as the world’s second biggest arms exporter. The Tories have raised arms spending by £2 billion in the last year to around £40 billion. And now Boris Johnson has pledged to further increase the defence budget to “meet the threats facing the country”. But arms spending isn’t just about supplying the British armed forces or making profits. In fact, Britain underwrites the arms industry through the

£22bn

worth of aircraft, helicopters and drones have been licenced for sale since 2008

£6.1bn

worth of grenades, bombs, missiles and counter-measures have been sold

£2.7bn

Small arms have been exported, including rifles, sub-machine guns and grenade launchers

£491m

Chemical and biological agents pathogens or toxins to produce casualties in humans



UK Export Finance (UKEF) credit scheme. It guarantees that British exporters do not lose out if a foreign buyer doesn’t pay on time. According to the most recent figures for 2018, 46 percent of UKEF’s liabilities were for arms sales. A big part of the sum was the British government stumping up a record £5 billion to facilitate the sale of military aircraft to Qatar. The state is willing to underwrite the arms industry because its importance goes beyond British capitalism’s profits. The relationship between states and arms manufacturers has been steadily changing. Prior to the Second World War, the British arms industry was made up of a variety of small companies. They largely designed and built equipment for the British army, air force and navy—not foreign powers—competing to win contracts commissioned by the government. After the war the arms industry became less reliant on the British state as a customer. But the two maintained a close relationship. The Cold War was a conflict between two imperialist blocs of powers led by the US and Russia. The arms industry was crucial to their global competition. And arms spending was also important because it helped underwrite the long boom of Western capitalism after the war. The state encouraged arms



THE SAUDI Arabian Airforce has bought dozens of Eurofighter Typhoons (left) They are now being used against the people of Yemen with devastating consequences (right)

Where Britain sells its weapons is also down to the West’s strategic interests in the world. Almost 80 percent of British arms are exported to the Middle East. The region has one of the largest deposits of oil in the world. While the US and its allies don’t need the oil for their own consumption, they don’t want rival powers to get their hands on it. This need to stave off its rivals has seen the US try to dominate the Middle East since the Second World War. Sometimes this means direct military intervention—such as during the Iraq invasion of 2003. But the West has also relied on powerful regional allies—Israel and Saudi Arabia. Most recently this has meant backing Saudi Arabia’s bombing of Yemen, which is part of a bigger imperialist rivalry with Iran. Britain has licenced over £5 billion worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia since it started bombing Yemen in 2015. It’s not certain how many deaths the war has caused, but it is estimated that it could be as high as 70,000 people. And beyond the deaths, the bombings have pushed the country to famine. BAE Systems has come under fire

companies to do business with developing countries to keep up Britain’s share of world exports. And it was also part of the Cold War superpowers’ strategy of stoking proxy wars against states aligned with their rivals. Arms firms went through a series of mergers, nationalisations and privatisations. The result was the birth of BAE Systems, the successor to most of Britain’s arms companies, in the 1990s. Greater research and development costs mean that companies can’t just flog stuff to poorer countries. Arms companies see selling to other richer countries as a key part of their business. The US-based Raytheon has operations in Britain, from where it can sell on its weapons.

“The arms industry is underwritten by the state because it matters for more than profit alone

for its complicity in Saudi Arabia’s human rights abuses. In June the court of appeal ruled that British arms sales to Saudi Arabia were unlawful and called for an immediate suspension. The court demanded a review into at least £4.7 billion of the sales that have been made. And the three judges presiding over the case said that senior Tory ministers—including Boris Johnson—ignored obvious human rights violations carried out using British technology. The ruling is potentially disastrous for Britain’s arms industry. But Britain will not stop exporting to Saudi. The court ruling only prevents new licences being granted by Britain. And last month the government asked the court to set aside the ruling



British-made CS cannisters were used against protesters in Egypt

pending an appeal. Andrew Smith from Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) said that a stay in the case would lead to “more illegal arms sales and more atrocities”. This complete lack of care is a trend that is repeated in Britain’s dealings with Israel. In May last year the government approved a £16 million arms sale to Israel—just days after the Israeli Defence Force killed 68 protesters at the Gaza border. Ironically, the sale took place the same week as Theresa May called the attacks on protesters “extremely concerning”. Andrew said that the near uncritical support of the British government for Israeli oppression of Palestinians would only result in “UK weapons playing a more devastating role in the future”. The figure given for the 2018 sales to Israel does not cover weapons that have an open export licence—the government is not obliged to release figures on these items. This essentially means that the true scale of Britain’s arms trade is unknowable. And the government is able to escape taking any real responsibility for its role in the murder of thousands of people. Britain’s money hungry attitude to human rights does not stop in the Middle East. Protests in Hong Kong in recent weeks have been met with horrific levels of police violence. Crowds of people taking to the streets to demand democracy in Hong Kong have been dispersed largely through the use of rubber bullets and tear gas. Following protests in 2014, Britain pledged to stop the export of tear gas to Hong Kong if police used it “once more” on protesters. Yet five years later canisters left behind at protest sites contained CS gas provided by Britain. In June Britain finally suspended tear gas exports to Hong Kong, while an investigation into the use of the chemical in the protests takes place. But Hong Kong is expected to send delegates to DSEI at Britain’s invitation. The protests at the arms fair are vital for demanding the British government stops arms sales. DSEI has been dubbed a “festival of violence”—and it’s time the bloody shopping trip was brought to an end. That means taking on the merchants of death—and the imperialist interests that drive their industry. For more information on the protests at the Excel this week, go to bit.ly/stopdsei19

Arms fair welcomes repressive regimes

THE BIGGEST arms companies in the world are exhibiting at DSEI—and all of them have had some hand in the war crimes of repressive regimes. Lockheed Martin—the world’s biggest arms company—has a cosy relationship with Israel. The company proudly proclaims on its website that it has been selling arms to Israel since 1971. In 2014, Israel carried out Operation Protective Edge, which killed at least 2,100 Palestinians. Lockheed’s F-16 planes were used to drop missiles on homes—murdering whole families. Operation Cast Lead killed 1,394 Palestinians in Gaza in 2008. An investigation by human rights group Amnesty International found that Israeli forces were flying F-16 fighter planes provided by the company. Just months before, Lockheed Martin had opened offices in Tel Aviv, the Israeli capital. They said that this move showed their dedication to Israel’s military. Lockheed Martin is complicit in other horrific conflicts. In 2017 US president Donald Trump signed a £100 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Lockheed Martin was the biggest beneficiary, making over £20 billion.

Section 60 orders are a licence to harass

RAYTHEON’S LASER guided Paveway IV “smart bombs” (below) were among munitions used by Saudi Arabia in civilian areas of Yemen. A report by Yemeni group Mtwana for Human Rights said, “Survivors of the attacks and victims’ relatives described destruction of homes, displacement of families, closure of schools and medical facilities, loss of livelihood, and trauma.” Fighter jets used in the bombings are also supplied by BAE Systems. BAE Systems and Saudi Arabia have a long—and corrupt—relationship dating back to a key deal in 1985. As soon as it was signed, stories of secret payments surfaced. In March a memo leaked to the Guardian newspaper showed that Saudi Arabian prince Bandar bin Sultan hired a lobbying firm run by former FBI head Louis Freeh. The 2010 memo said the prince, a former ambassador to the US, was a “key target” of a US state investigation. They were looking into allegations that Bandar had trousered over £1 billion in secret payments from BAE. The firm boasted that its “relentless” work had persuaded US investigators to remove anything identifying Bandar.



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Strike for the climate

Wed 18 Sep, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ
SWANSEA
What do we say about Welsh independence?
Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Is our diet destroying the planet?

Mon 9 Sep, 6pm,
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNLEY

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Room 302, The Civic,
Hanson St, S70 2HZ

BIRMINGHAM

What are the origins of women's oppression?

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm,
The Church at Carrs Lane,
Carrs Ln, B4 7SX

BOLTON

The Hong Kong resistance and the impact on China

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St, BL1 1DY

BRISTOL

The sixth extinction — capitalism and the biodiversity crisis

Thu 12 Sep, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Stop Modi's repression — how can Kashmir be free?

Thu 26 Sep, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CHESTERFIELD

After parliament's suspension, Tories out, general election now!

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

System change not climate change

Thu 26 Sep, 8pm,
Oyster Room, Hythe
Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



THE AMAZON fires are the latest sign of environmental destruction

Booklaunch—with authors System change not climate change

CHELMSFORD & SOUTHEND

Tue 24 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Railway Hotel,
Cliff Town Road,
SS1 1AJ

GLASGOW

Sat 28 Sep, 7pm,
Mercure Hotel,
201 Ingram St.,
G1 1DQ

GREATER MANCHESTER

Wed 9 Oct, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

LONDON: SOUTH

Wed 2 Oct, 7pm,
Karibu Centre,
7 Gresham Rd,
SW9 7PH

COVENTRY

Orban, Hungary and the rise of the far-right

Wed 25 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln, CV1 5RF

DERBY

Climte change and the myth of overpopulation

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next
to Britannia Mill),
DE22 3BL

EDINBURGH

Stop Modi's repression — how can Kashmir be free?

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria Street,
EH1 2JL

EXETER

What do we mean by democracy?

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm,
The Exeter peace shop,
31 New Bridge St,
EX4 3AH

GLASGOW

The Hong Kong resistance and the impact on China

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City, G1 5QT

HARLOW

Alexandra Kollontai and sexual liberation

Thu 12 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?

Wed 11 Sep, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade,
HD1 5JP

HULL

Is human nature a barrier to socialism?

Thu 19 Sep, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd, HU6 7RZ

KENT

Stop Modi's repression — how can Kashmir be free?

Thu 19 Sep, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre,
272 High St,
Chatham,
ME4 4BP

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

The sixth extinction — capitalism and the biodiversity crisis

Thu 26 Sep, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

The 1969 South African rugby tour and the Anti-Apartheid Movement

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: HACKNEY

Why we need a revolutionary party

Thu 12 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd,
E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Why does capitalism need borders?

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd
(corner Vincent Rd),
N15 3QH

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

Brexit, borders and the case for a united Ireland

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm,
Deptford Lounge,
9 Giffin St, SE8 4RH

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Capitalism and the climate

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Weavers Community Forum,
10 Shacklewell St,
E2 7EG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Chile 1973 and Allende — the other 9/11

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST

Climate change and the myth of overpopulation

Thu 19 Sep, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DZ

LUTON & ST ALBANS

Can Corbynomials work?

Thu 19 Sep, 7.30pm,
Stockwood Hotel,
41-43 Stockwood Crescent
(enter via London Rd car park),
LU1 3SS

NEWCASTLE

Stop Modi's repression — how can Kashmir be free?

Wed 11 Sep, 7pm,
Floor 2, Commercial
Union House,
39 Pilgrim St, NE1 6QE

NORWICH

Is our diet destroying the planet?

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Climate change and the myth of overpopulation

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way,
OX4 1YH

PORTSMOUTH

Racism today and lessons from the Anti Nazi League

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

After parliament's suspension, Tories out, general election now!

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
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SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Rebellion, disobedience and arrests — what's the role of the police?

Thu 12 Sep, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Why does capitalism need borders?

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

YORK

Is our diet destroying the planet?

Wed 11 Sep, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH
Speaker: Sue Caldwell

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

NATIONAL

End austerity now! Protest at the Tory party conference

Sun 29 Sept, 12 noon
Oxford Road
Called by the People's
Assembly

NATIONAL

International conference against racism and fascism

Sat 19 Oct, 10am,
Central London
Speakers include Gary Younge,
Mark Serwotka, Emma Dent
Coad MP, Jane Loftus, Nita
Sanghera and Kevin Courtney
Hosted by Stand Up To Racism

LONDON

Cuba, the Pink Tide and revolution in Latin America

Sat 26 Oct, 2pm
Birkbeck,
University of London
Malet Street, WC1E 7HX
Hosted by the International
Socialism journal

GLASGOW

Marxism in Scotland 2019: Ideas to Change the World

Sat 9 Nov, 10am,
Renfield St Stephens Centre,
260 Bath St,
G2 4JP

Themes include: Independence & the break-up of the British state • Resisting racism, fascism & the far right • System change not climate change • #MeToo: challenging sexism and the system • Palestine, revolution in North Africa & imperialism

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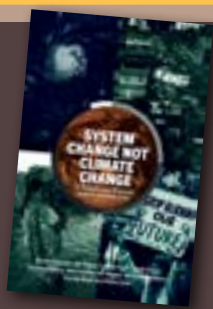
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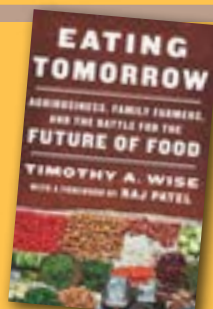
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Simon Butler, £13.99

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An insight into the struggles inside an American Factory

A new Netflix documentary tells the stories of workers in a US rust belt car factory. **Nadia Sayed** says it's brilliant, nuanced—and well worth watching

SEEING MELANCHOLY and mournful faces as a prayer is made, you might wonder if you're accidentally watching the wrong documentary.

But that is what is brilliant about Julia Reichert and Steven Bogner's new documentary *American Factory*.

They follow emotions and experiences of workers from a closed General Motors plant in Ohio, later bought by a Chinese billionaire for his company Fuyao.

Many of the workers from the General Motors plant began work in Fuyao.

There's much rhetoric about the entire company being a "family", and enthusiasm about a bright future promised by the new plant's extravagant opening ceremonies.

But as the film rolls on, it's clear the opposite is true.

A young black woman living in the plant talks about how she had gone from being paid over £23 an hour to £10.

Even the workers' basic needs—such as microwaves for their lunches and a space to eat—are neglected in a drive for efficiency.

Many reviews of the film will stress the theme of a culture clash, between the Chinese management and supervising staff and the US workers.

And this is an idea that does feature in the film.

But it's not central—nor is it presented as something so black and white.

Frustration

Firstly, the film shows the frustration taken out by workers on their US managers and supervisors.

But more importantly, you see the struggle of the workers.

We get to see the dangers and stresses of working in a car factory, where efficiency is put before wellbeing or safety.

But we also get to see their attempts to unionise with the United Automobile Workers—in the face of an anti-union company—and win the confidence of their co-workers to fight back.

In the space of just under two hours, the film captures the years-long journey and challenges for both workers, the investors and management.

American Factory is an insight into the reality of life and industry in the rust belt of the US.

American Factory is out now on Netflix



HATIDZE MURATOVA—one of the last wild beekeepers in Europe

A story of people, nature and destruction

DOCUMENTARY

HONEYLAND

In cinemas from 13 September. Go to bit.ly/Honeyland-Screenings to find your nearest showing

PICKING HER way along the edge of a cliff, Hatidze Muratova lives a precarious existence.

She's one of the last wild beekeepers in Europe. *Honeyland*—the "most awarded film" at this year's Sundance festival—is her story.

Hatidze lives in an apparently deserted village in North Macedonia. There, she looks after her ailing mother and makes honey from the honeycomb of the wild bee colonies she curates.

Knowing that she always has to leave enough honeycomb for

the bees, Hatidze survives on a reciprocal relationship with the rest of nature.

But when a family of farmers arrive and attempt their own honey-making, they threaten to destroy that balance—and all their lives with it.

The way of life shown here seems as if it belongs to a different time.

The eerie, atmospheric sense of isolation—dwelt on in slow panoramas and contrasted with hints of an encroaching modern society—accentuates that.

It's possible to see this film simply as some nostalgic, backward-looking critique that blames environmental destruction on human progress.

Yet Hatidze's life isn't romanticised. It's hard, lonely, and occasionally bleak. She's as

comfortable in the streets and markets of the capital city Skopje as she is in the wilderness.

In fact her brief visit to the city seems almost like a relief. She later suggests that, if she'd had the chance, she might have left the village.

Instead, this is a film that has something to say about how a desire to profit from the natural world can end up destroying it. But it doesn't do it in a way that's lecturing, hectoring or preachy.

Honeyland shows, not tells. We're allowed to develop our own thoughts and conclusions as the story gently unfolds.

And if it sometimes feels stylised, that's alright. The resulting beauty and weirdness justify it.

Nick Clark

MUSIC

THE DAISY AGE

Ace Records
£11.50

WHO WOULD imagine that in 1989 hip hop would turn hippy?

Rap had in the previous three years been dominated by hard political lyrics combined with heavy 1970s funk samples.

But the arrival of De La Soul's debut, *3 Feet High and Rising*, was to change everything. They weren't afraid to play with words—making rhymes funny, abstract and weird.

They slowed the hip hop tempo right down and created a lot more space in the music. The samples now came from obscure



Hippy rap

psychedelia, blue-eyed 1980s soul, and even Linguaphone learn French tapes.

The album's huge success opened the gates to many more. And the new breed were keen to push the boundaries even further.

A Tribe Called Quest, The Freestyle Fellowship and Brand Nubian combined pro-black politics with Avant Garde jazz samples and created a whole genre of their own.

This new compilation—*The Daisy Age* from Ace Records—brings some of that music together.

In time the East Coast hippies were eclipsed by their Gangsta rivals from LA.

And yet somehow this briefest of hip hop moments still casts a multi-coloured shadow.

Yuri Prasad

THEATRE

HOW NOT TO DROWN

The Tron Theatre, Glasgow, 11–14 September. Tickets from £11. Go to tron.co.uk

AFTER THE end of the Kosovan War, Dritan is sent across the Adriatic with a gang of people smugglers to a new life in Europe.

He relies on his young wit and charm to make it to Britain.

But the fight for survival continues as he clings to his identity and sense of self when he ends up in the British care system.



On other pages...

Why the history of Zionism is deliberately forgotten >>> **Page 15**

Climate chaos isn't just a threat for the future. Indonesia announced last week that it is moving its whole capital from the sinking city of Jakarta to Bornea last week. Five million people are on the cusp of starvation in southern Africa.

Without drastic action wildfires, droughts, typhoons and hurricanes will only get worse. Now even the rich are waking up to the scale of the threat—or so it seems.

But the logic of capitalism—to always maximise profits—means we can't trust them.

There is a widespread feeling that we need urgent action on climate change that CEOs can't ignore. But their response amounts to little more than “greenwashing”—appearing more environmentally-friendly to their consumers.

Bosses at Heathrow Airport say that “growth cannot come at any cost”. They claim that “the aviation sector is committed to decarbonising and playing its part in reducing emissions to achieve a net-zero economy by 2050.

“Heathrow itself is decarbonising and its infrastructure will be carbon-neutral by next year.”

They don't include in this the aircraft that fly in and out of the airport.

The vast majority of flights are taken by bosses and the rich. Some 70 percent of flights in Britain were made by 15 percent of the population, according to a study from 2014.

Their jet-setting lifestyles are just one example of how the rich overconsume resources.

So some rich people are greenwashing that too.

Luxury

Bernard Arnault, Europe's richest man, said his LVMH champagne and luxury brands group would stump up £9 million to fight the Amazon fires. He's keen to greenwash after one of its arms was implicated in an Amazon scandal in 2009.

A Greenpeace report documented how big agribusiness, funded by Brazilian state-owned banks, were illegally clearing large parts of the rainforest.

The reason was not demand for meat products, but leather sold on the European markets to brands that cater for the rich. They included LVMH's Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Boss and Prada.

The Amazon leather trade wasn't just a by-product of beef production, but a driver of deforestation in its own right.

LVMH isn't the only company promising it will help the environment when it has benefited from its destruction.

A group of investment bankers and millionaires have set up something called the Climate

IN SAFE hands?

WE CAN'T RELY ON THE RICH

Bosses can claim to clean up their acts—and even fund climate activism. But the logic of capitalism means they'll always betray us, argues Tomáš Tengely-Evans



Picture: Guy Sullivan

Emergency Fund. Members of the advisory board include Aileen Getty—of the Getty family that made its fortune from Getty Oil.

There is more than just hypocrisy at play here.

The Climate Emergency Fund goes further than stumping up money when extreme weather strikes.

It says it's there to fund climate activism, from supplying megaphones and printing leaflets to paying for full-time

staff for climate movement organisations.

Trevor Neilson, who describes himself as an investor and philanthropist, is heading up the new fund. He supported Extinction Rebellion's (XR) International Rebellion, the week of occupations in London in April.

And he talks in radical language, saying, “We do not have time for gradualism”. “The fund will provide resources to grassroots activists who seek to

disrupt in a non-violent way,” he said.

A spokesperson for XR said the move showed we're near a tipping point. “In the past, philanthropy has often been about personal interest,” they said. “But now people are realising that we are all in this together and putting their money forward for our collective wellbeing.”

That's not quite true of Neilson's motives.

He set up the i(x) Investments fund in 2015 with Howard Buffett—grandson of billionaire investor Warren Buffett. The company's slogan is “Profit with a purpose”.

What does that mean? And can it work to save the planet?

NEILSON and Buffett acknowledge that capitalism is about making a profit. But the idea is that the individual choices of investors can make a difference for climate justice and the social good.

They argue that by taking a long-term view, capitalists can do the good thing and ensure a future for profit-making on the planet.

Neilson believes that “now is the time to stop investing in fossil fuels, which are largely dependent upon massive taxpayer funded subsidies”. So companies should “direct their investments toward renewable energy, a sector that offers more attractive returns”.

The model is highly profitable for i(x) Investments' business model.

They make a lot of the fact that i(x) isn't an investment fund—a business that buys and sells companies to make a quick return. Their holding company model invests in new, environmentally-friendly companies, keeps hold of a stake and reinvests the profits.

This gives i(x) long-term interest payments—and allows the company to defer a hefty tax bill.

And it's likely to make Neilson and Buffett quite rich. But it's not going to achieve Buffett's other stated ambition—“It's about taking the potential for capitalism to the next level.”

Limits

There are limits to how profitable being green is across capitalism—and it ignores how central fossil fuel production is to the system. As The Economist magazine writes, “Companies going carbon neutral are mostly consumer-facing ones rather than intensive emitters.

“Money for coal may be scarce, at least in the rich world, but institutional investors own a sizeable chunk of the world's major oil companies.”

There's also a more fundamental barrier to the rich saving us from climate catastrophe—the competition of their capitalist system. The aim of capitalist firms is to maximise profits—and

this takes place at the expense of planet and people.

Individual capitalist firms don't maximise profits because their CEOs or shareholders are greedy or want to maintain a luxurious lifestyle.

Competition acts as a coercive force on capitalist firms and capitalist states—and means their investment choices are down to profit or loss.

The choices of individual capitalist firms may have disastrous consequences for society as a whole. And they may even endanger the very future of the capitalist system itself.

But if they don't try and grab a bigger slice of profits, they'll be driven out of business by a competitor. The threat of this capitalist logic is summed up by the new “scramble for the Arctic”.

Donald Trump's bid to buy Greenland from Denmark may have seemed like another wacky move by the US president. But there is real competition between the US, Russia and other powers for the region.

A lot of it has to do with the Arctic ice caps melting, meaning it's easier to drill for oil and gas.

Competition places limits on what the state will do to rein in fossil fuel capitalists.

Sometimes capitalist states have placed restrictions on individual capitalism firms for the long-term benefit of the system as a whole.

Movements

And sometimes the working class and mass movements have forced the state to impose rules on private capitalists.

If that wasn't the case, there would still be child labour and hardly any workers' rights.

Reforms to tackle climate change are welcome. The Green New Deal is a package of measures proposed by politicians in a number of countries this is said to tackle the climate crisis. It's also a nod to the US New Deal of the 1930s that followed the Wall Street Crash.

Then, significant sections of capital were willing to accept increased state control because it promised to restore profitability in the long-term.

They will not push for the sort of transformational changes needed to decarbonise the economy. A package of state-led reforms would quickly come up against how central fossil fuels are to modern capitalism.

There's a second barrier to stop the state reining in private



Picture: Guy Sullivan

The i(x) Investments fund donated money to Extinction Rebellion's protests in April (top) Norway's ban on drilling for oil in the Arctic hasn't stopped others piling in (above)

capitalists—that there is no national solution to climate change.

Norway's parliament recently passed a motion saying it would not drill for oil in the arctic and leave billions of barrels of oil in the ground. The state-owned oil company bosses kicked up a fuss, but the legislation still passed.

But global competition means other countries are still getting a slice of the action in the Arctic.

There would be no capitalism on a dead planet, and even the rich will feel the effects of climate change.

But the logic of capitalism means the system drives the planet to destruction for the sake of profit. Either we take down capitalism—or it takes us all down with it.

READ MORE

● **Fighting for our Future—Capitalism Versus the Climate**
by Sarah Bates, Amy Leather and Camilla Royle
£3

● **System Change not Climate Change**
Edited by Martin Empson
£8

● **This is Not a Drill**
by Extinction Rebellion
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HISTORY AND THEORY

Why the history of Israel is deliberately forgotten

A new book on the origins of Israel is welcome and useful, but flawed, argues Nick Clark

RESPECTABLE British politics, writes historian Gardner Thompson, is full of people who “do not know or understand the turbulent history of Palestine and Britain's leading role in it.” Yet they “speak and act as if they do.”

Despite much sound and fury, most of these types are ignorant of Israel's founding ideology Zionism, the dispossession of the Palestinians and the crimes of the British Empire.

This, says Thompson, means the Labour Party has “struggled to distinguish anti-Zionism and antisemitism.” It's also created a “lopsided” debate in favour of Israel, and leaves politicians “ill-equipped to pursue Arab-Israeli reconciliation now.”

He hopes his new book, *Legacy of Empire—Britain, Zionism and the Creation of Israel*, can help to correct that.

In an easy to read, accessible way, Thompson describes the complicated beginnings of the Zionist movement.

Contradictions

Zionism was full of contradictions and arguments. The thing that united them was Jewish experience of antisemitic oppression in eastern Europe.

They all concluded that Jewish people could never—or should never—be accepted in non-Jewish society, and should seek to become a nation of their own.

The Zionists wanted to redefine what it meant to be Jewish to mean Jewish nationality, and support for a Jewish state.

It's an idea that Thompson says allowed antisemitic politicians in Europe to deny entry to Jewish refugees in their countries, instead encouraging settlement in Palestine.

He does a good job at

ZIONISM LED to the dispossession of the Palestinians

showing how Zionism in practice led to the dispossession of Arabs. He explains how its enforcement laid the basis for division between Arabs and Jews in Palestine—and for Arab resistance.

He shows again and again how this wasn't based on any natural antisemitism among Arabs, but hostility to an attempt to dispossess and displace them.

And, in a later chapter, he goes through how the partition of Palestine—the first “two-state solution”—is at the root of the decades of conflict that followed.

Thompson's book does have a flaw though. He says the argument that controlling Palestine protected the interests of the British Empire is wrong.

He agrees that imperial considerations played a part. As did the idea among British politicians that the support of “world Jewry” could help win the First World War—a belief Thompson rightly labels antisemitic.

But these were only of “secondary importance,” he says.

Instead, Britain only really swung round to

backing for Zionism when David Lloyd George “an enthusiastic Zionist” became prime minister in 1916.

Thompson says that Lloyd George's religious support for Zionism, and the persuasiveness of Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann, were decisive factors.

His claim seems to be that British politicians' support for Zionism convinced them that Palestine was more useful to them than it actually was.

Lobbying

This argument can encourage the wrong-headed idea that support for Israel has something to do with Israeli or Zionist lobbying and influence on British politics.

But it fits in with Thompson's idea that British politicians' support for Israel rests on their ignorance of the history, rather than Britain's interest in the Middle East.

There's not much hope in finding a solution in Palestine through attempting to educate politicians in a history they don't care about.

But if we know that history, we can arm ourselves with the knowledge to build an effective solidarity movement, and refute accusations that anti-Zionism is antisemitic.

Thompson's book has some useful information in to help with that. And in the climate, any book that so clearly argues the difference between anti-Zionism and antisemitism is very welcome.

Legacy of Empire: Britain, Zionism and the Creation of Israel by Gardner Thompson. Published by Saqi Books, £20

“Zionists wanted to redefine what it meant to be Jewish”

Tata set to close its steel plant in Newport

TATA STEEL has torn up promises it made just a year ago and announced the closure of its Orb electrical steels base in Newport, South Wales.

Nearly 400 jobs are under threat there and another 26 in Wolverhampton, where the engineering steels service centre is to close.

Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of the Community union, said, "There has been no consultation about this proposal either at UK or European level. Company management should hang their heads in shame in the way this has come about."

"This is of course extremely devastating news for the workers affected, but all Tata Steel workers should be concerned by the way Tata is breaking its commitments."

Rickhuss added, "We will be considering all options, up to and including industrial action, in defence of our members' livelihoods."

Other unions in steel—the GMB and Unite—also condemned the closures, but did not give any indication of strikes. Orb worker Matthew Grande said news had been



HUNDREDS OF workers will lose their jobs

leaking out about closure and they had to work with a "massive cloud hanging over our heads". "We're gutted and devastated," he said.

The plant specialises in materials for renewable energy projects and electric vehicle production. There

ought to be a fight to save the jobs, and if Tata won't do it then the government should renationalise.

Making concessions and avoiding struggle has been disastrous. Last year the unions brokered a deal that meant workers accepted

pension cuts in exchange for a "guarantee" that they could keep their jobs. This has proved worthless.

At the time Rickhuss said, "With a jobs guarantee until 2026 and commitments to invest across the business this agreement means workers

can look to the future with confidence."

Some Newport workers could now be offered relocation to Tata's other plants in South Wales. But many will not feel able to uproot themselves.

There is some political pressure for action.

Plaid Cymru shadow minister for the economy Rhun ap Iorwerth said, "Plaid Cymru is asking Welsh and UK governments to investigate all possible interventions—from joint investment to even taking it into public ownership."

Labour's shadow business secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey MP blamed the closures on a no-deal Brexit.

She said, "This government's reckless no-deal policy is hammering manufacturing before Brexit has even happened."

But the underlying reason is a world crisis in steelmaking as demand from other companies slows, and Tata's determination to maintain profits.

Stopping the jobs slaughter means challenging that capitalist logic.

Fears of new recession are the rise

BRITISH manufacturing activity contracted in August for the fourth consecutive month to its lowest level since 2012, a survey has revealed.

Expectations of a recession are growing.

Bosses have ordered a slew of factory closures and job cuts this year in firms such as Ford and Honda.

"UK manufacturing is on track to contract for a second consecutive quarter. A meaningful recovery is unlikely given the ongoing struggles of global manufacturing," said Andrew Wishart,

an economist at Capital Economics, a consultancy.

Britain's slump mirrors an even steeper fall for Germany and the first fall in US factory activity since 2009.

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Women's inequality shapes how the menopause is treated

Society's structures—and sexism—mean women going through the menopause face many problems, including the side effects of HRT used to treat its symptoms, writes **Sarah Bates**

 AROUND ONE million women in Britain use Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) to relieve the symptoms of their menopause.

But up to one in 50 women taking the most common form of HRT long-term will get breast cancer as a result.

That's the finding from new research carried out by the Lancet medical journal, published last week.

It suggests the risk of developing breast cancers from using HRT is twice what was previously thought.

The research looked at data from 58 studies around the world on more than 108,000 women who had developed breast cancer after taking HRT.

And it shows that the longer women take HRT, the higher the risk will be.

It will come as a shock to the one million women in Britain taking HRT. They had previously been advised that up to five years treatment came risk-free.

But the research suggests that the risk-free treatment period could be just one year.

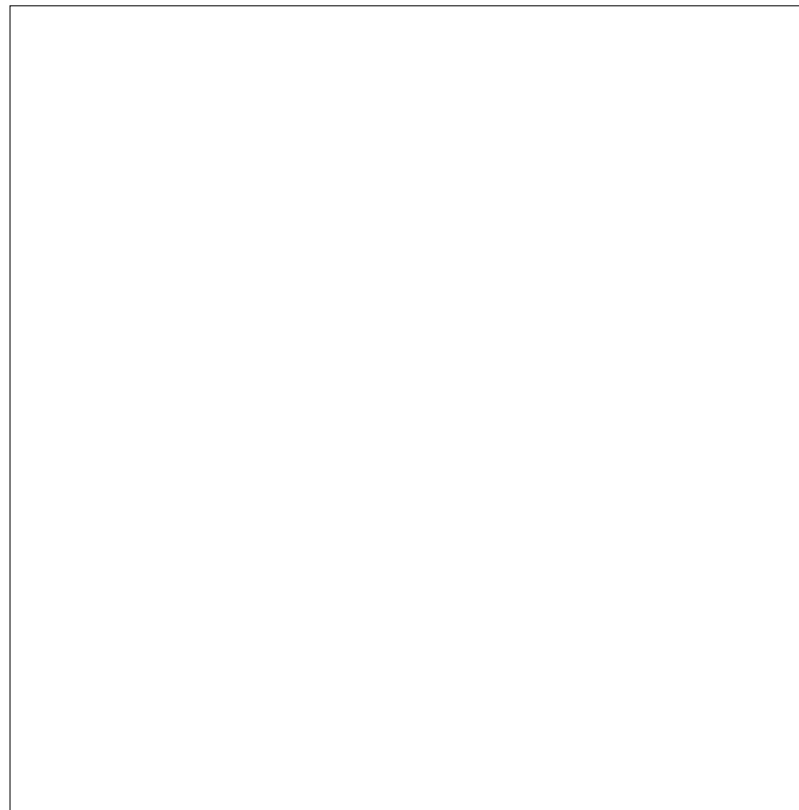
Research

Sir Richard Peto is professor of medical statistics and epidemiology at the University of Oxford. He said doctors could point to the new research to ensure women were fully aware that HRT caused breast cancer.

"These are cause and effect relationships. It's not just an association that exists, because the HRT is causing the increase in breast cancer."

The British Menopause Society (BMS) said risks caused by HRT should be considered alongside benefits.

It said the findings "should be taken in the context of the overall benefits obtained from using HRT including symptom control and improving



HRT HAS real benefits, but also risks

quality of life as well as considering the bone and cardiovascular benefits associated with HRT use."

The new findings and the robust defence of HRT from the BMS will leave many women worried about what treatment option is right for them.

But the problem is further compounded by supply chain issues that have meant pharmacies are running out of HRT pills, patches, gels and implants. The European

Pharmaceutical Review website reports that shortages are "likely to continue until next year."

"Approximately half of the most commonly prescribed HRT products are currently out of stock in many pharmacies," it said.

The shortages began last year after some firms in China stopped making HRT patches, causing a surge in demand for other forms of the treatment.

HRT is one of many drugs that are

now in short supply. HRT is far from the only medication affected.

Dozens of medication types are now on a "concessions list" where the NHS will pay a higher rate to ensure a steady stream of supply.

HRT works by replacing the hormone oestrogen, or a combination of oestrogen and progesterone.

Doctors are worried that the HRT shortage leaves many women in misery.

Most people have heard of hot flushes, but symptoms can vary from woman to woman, with some suffering hugely.

Anxiety

Symptoms can also include, heart palpitations, anxiety and depression, forgetfulness, vaginal dryness, difficulty sleeping and loss of libido.

About 80 percent of women experience some symptoms, with one in four suffering severely.

Menopause healthcare should be treated as a public healthcare issue.

That means resources need to be available to all who need it—not left to the discretion of individual pharmacists to ensure their shelves are fully stocked.


It's true that HRT is helpful to many women who suffer daily debilitating menopausal symptoms.

Despite only about 20 percent of menopausal women taking HRT it remains the only treatment available.

The threat to women's health should be treated as an urgent public issue—not brushed under the carpet and left for each woman to navigate alone.

There needs to be publicly funded research into developing alternatives to HRT that don't come at the cost of women's long-term health.

What is the menopause?

 IT'S a process of rapid hormonal changes that affects women, usually between the ages of 45 and 55.

●A woman stops having periods. Symptoms usually start a few months or years before periods stop


●The main treatment is Hormone Replacement Therapy

●47 percent of women have needed to take a day off work due to symptoms but wouldn't tell their boss why

●42 percent think their symptoms were much worse than they expected

●3 percent of line managers are given relevant training

Alternative to HRT 'is unsafe'

 HORMONE Replacement Therapy isn't a treatment that appeals to all women, not least because of the increased cancer risks.

But industry bodies warned last week that alternatives could be even worse.


Compounded bioidentical hormone replacement therapy (CBHRT) mimics the exact hormone make-up for each woman.

The treatment is usually put together by pharmacists working in private clinics.

But the British Menopause Society (BMS) say the formulas made for each woman aren't regulated like conventional HRT.

Haitham Hamoda, from the BMS said, "Every expert in the field shares concerns about compounded hormones treatment. It's unsafe, and unnecessary."

Bosses don't make provision for menopausal women

 MOST women experience the menopause between 45 and 55 but some experience it much earlier or later.

There are more than 5 million working women between the ages of 45 and 60—double the number 25 years ago.

So a good number of women will have to negotiate their working lives alongside potentially debilitating menopausal symptoms.

Many have found they haven't received support at work. One worker wrote to

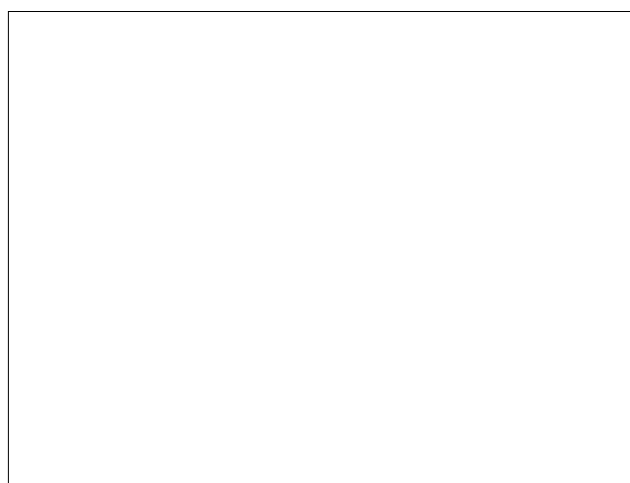
the Guardian newspaper about her experiences during the menopause as a nurse in Scotland.

She said the NHS made no reasonable adjustments during this period.

"When I asked for shifts to be changed I was treated with contempt—it was almost as if I wasn't capable of doing the job anymore.

"It was as if I was slacking—there was not sympathy. The message was to get on with it, or you knew what you could do."

There's no specific



Most women are left to devise their own ways of surviving at work

legislation to ensure women get the support they need at work.

The Usdaw union found that over half of women surveyed didn't feel able to approach their managers if they were suffering.

Adjustments should be made to women can continue to work during the menopause.

This might mean proper guidance for managers, programmes of menopause leave, installing desk fans, uniform adjustments, flexible working or private rest areas.

IN BRIEF

Hull food strikers are still confident

WORKERS AT Karro Foods in Hull are continuing their weekly 24-hour strikes over pay.

Picket lines are large, lively and determined, and more workers have been joining the GMB union.

Strikers were boosted last week by donations to the strike fund and by the second of two local trades council rallies held on the picket line.

They were addressed by local and regional union officials, local activists, a Labour councillor and Emma Hardy MP.

● Messages of support to trishcarlisle@yahoo.com
Wendy Dobbs

Cheers for Newport AB-InBev ballot

WORKERS AT the AB-InBev brewery in Magor, near Newport in South Wales, have voted overwhelmingly for action over pay and hours.

The Unite union wants bosses to reduce the working week and agree a pay rise above inflation.

An overtime ban is set to begin next Monday.

Last year the company unveiled its “futuristic, fully-automated warehouse” on the site. Unfortunately for bosses, it still needs workers.

BA pilots are ready for strike take-off

AIRLINE PILOTS are on course for strikes after British Airways (BA) bosses refused to pay up.

The workers, who are members of the Balpa union, are set to walk out 9, 10 and 27 September, causing travel chaos. Pilots are fighting for a pay increase, which they argue would cost BA only £5 million to resolve.

Action threat wins at Heathrow airport

WORKERS AT London's Heathrow airport have won a 3 percent pay rise after threatening industrial action.

Unite union members across five sections, including technicians and baggage handlers, voted for strikes.

Babcock Airport Ltd then conceded an improved offer.

Meanwhile the GMB union suspended a series of strikes at John Lennon airport in Liverpool. The union said Swissport had “addressed the health and safety issues” of the 200 workers.

Power station deal stops strike plan

A STRIKE by scaffolders at Drax power station in North Yorkshire was called off after an agreement was reached.

The 29 Unite union members, who work for subcontractor Altrad Hertel, wanted bosses to adhere to a national agreement.

TRANSPORT



BUS WORKERS in the Unite union protested last week at City Hall to demand that Transport for London takes action to tackle fatigue among London bus drivers

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

HEALTH WORKERS

Lincs health visitors escalate pay fightback

by TOMÁŠ TENGEY-EVANS

HEALTH VISITORS in Lincolnshire are stepping up their fight for equal pay.

The 58 Unite union members were set to begin a seven-day walkout from Monday of next week.

The planned industrial action—the longest the workers have staged so far—comes on top of 17 strike days.

The health visitors were transferred from the health service to the local authority in October 2017.

They have not had a pay rise since—even though both NHS and council workers have received modest pay increases.



A health visitors' protest

This has seen some workers lose more than £2,000 a year since the transfer.

Steve Syson, the Unite regional officer, said, “The Conservative-led council’s treatment of these employees takes the biscuit. These dedicated employees have

been denied cost of living rises since October 2017.

“If the health visitors had remained in the NHS—which was their wish—they would have received pay awards.”

The workers have shown they are determined to fight, having voted 84 percent in favour of strikes.

Syson said, “Hardline council bosses are choosing to bury their collective head in the sand.

“But our members have been buoyed up by the tremendous support they have received from the public.”

Every trade unionist should support this fight.

● Tweet solidarity to @UniteEastMids

ROYAL MAIL

ROYAL MAIL postal workers have made a massive show of strength, with large gate meetings across Britain ahead of a national strike ballot.

The members of the CWU union are gearing up for a major battle.

Bosses want to force through an array of attacks on working conditions.

They’re designed to transform Royal Mail into a company similar to parcel delivery companies such as DPD and Hermes, where workers are on much worse terms and conditions.

Mark Dolan, a CWU area rep, has been organising gate meetings in north London. He told Socialist Worker, “The members know what’s at stake. This is not just a strike about pay and conditions—this is an attempt to run down and break up the business.”

The strike ballot is set to run from Tuesday 17 September until Tuesday 8 October.

EDUCATION

Ballot looms over attacks on university pensions

THE UCU union was set to ballot members across 69 universities from Monday of next week for strikes over pensions.

The ballot involves members of the USS pension scheme.

The USS Joint Negotiating Committee has backed a plan by bosses to raise pension contributions to 9.6 percent of salary.

Workers currently pay 8.8 percent, and could face a rise to 11 percent by 2021.

UCU general secretary Jo Grady said the rises are “unnecessary and unfair”.

“These increases may force some members to leave USS, jeopardising not only individual retirement plans but the future of the scheme,” she said.

“Unless universities are prepared to pick up the increased costs, they will face another round of strikes.”

Bosses proposed a deal that would see contributions limited to 9.1 percent—in return for a two-year ban on any strike ballots over pensions.

The UCU said this was a “ludicrous condition” and rejected it.

Many union members have rightly argued that workers should face “no detriment” to their pensions.

The scheme is not in deficit, and there is no reason why workers should either pay more in contributions or get less when they retire.

A series of pension strikes last year reinvigorated the union and showed the power of workers.

More action can protect pensions and push back the bosses.

● For a full list of the universities involved in the ballot go to bit.ly/UCUballot

TOWER HAMLETS



On the picket line

WORKERS AT the Tower Hamlets site of New City College in east London struck on Friday of last week. The walkout was the sixth day of action by UCU union members in a dispute over pay and conditions.

Workers want a decent pay rise, having seen the value of their pay fall by 25 percent over the past

decade. But they are also furious at rising workloads and attacks on contracts.

Workers are also angry at how bosses are clamping down on students.

Strikes at other colleges have won above-inflation pay deals and improvements to conditions.

More action can beat back the bosses.

TAYSIDE

Prescription for victory?

SCOTTISH pharmacy workers could be close to victory due to an all-out strike.

Unite union members at Tayside NHS walked out to demand a new pay evaluation scheme last month.

Tayside NHS bosses agreed to evaluate their jobs on Monday. A consistency checking panel then checked the evaluation on Tuesday—with results due out on

Wednesday after Socialist Worker went to press.

A statement from Unite members said, “We all hope for a positive outcome and finally to resolve the ten-year dispute.

“Everyone’s in good spirits and ready to keep fighting.”

The workers have been right to stay on the picket line until bosses carry out their demands.

HEALTH ROUND-UP

■ HUNDREDS OF health workers across the North West of England struck for two days last week.

The Unison union members are demanding that private contractor Compass pays them the same rates of pay as NHS workers.

The cleaners, porters and other support staff work at Blackpool NHS Teaching

Hospitals, St Helens Hospital and Whiston Hospital.

■ THE GMB union suspended a planned 24-hour strike this week at Hairmyres Hospital in East Kilbride near Glasgow.

The outsourced workers, employed by ISS, had been set to walk out over a new pay roll system on Monday.

Workers will consider a new offer from bosses.

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

‘Try living on my salary’

AROUND 300 Birmingham university caterers, cleaners, security guards and other support staff struck on Monday and Tuesday this week.

They were their fourth and fifth strike days this year.

The Unison union members’ demands include an above-inflation pay rise and action to close the gender pay gap.

The branch said, “Disputes are often known to be just about ‘pay’. Ours is about much more than that—it is about pay, equality, and working conditions.”

Unison branch secretary Mike Moore said, “The university has failed to

realise the strength of feeling about this and the extent to which our members need a proper pay rise.

“One of our members addressed a letter directly to the university’s vice chancellor last month.

“She told him that she has to work two jobs and often spends the entire weekend without sleep to balance family commitments and night work.

“She challenged him to try and live on the same salary for just a short period of time.

“We delivered the letter on her behalf four weeks ago but still haven’t received a reply.”

MUSEUMS

Strike for higher pay at five museum sites

by NICK CLARK

WORKERS AT Science Museum group sites across England struck for 24 hours last Friday in a fight over pay.

The members of the Prospect union walked out after rejecting a pay deal that gave most of them a below-inflation 1.5 percent pay increase.

Prospect says years of similar pay deals mean workers at the sites have effectively had a pay cut of 13 percent since 2010.

Workers struck at museums in London, Manchester, Bradford, York and Wiltshire.

Imogen Clarke, who works at the Science Museum in west London, said the low pay was forcing many workers to leave the job.

Valued

"As a more junior staff member there's no incentive to stay—you don't feel valued," she said.

"I don't want to leave as I love working there but I can't afford to continue for much longer."

Laurel Mackie, who also works in west London, earns



STRIKERS SAY bosses' attitudes to pay belong in a museum

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

less than the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour. She said paying for childcare was a "struggle".

"Travel is expensive too," she said. "I have to think about what time of day I travel which can be a bit of a rush

when you're with a child." Carlos Alvares said he was "barely making enough to break even".

And assistant curator Khalil Thirlaway said, "Senior management are not willing to do anything about

it—we want them to hear our concerns.

"They say there's no money but there's enough money to hire senior management and pay them more.

"How can the other museums pay their staff fairly?"

CIVIL SERVICE

IT workers at driver agency stay strong on picket lines

A STRIKE by IT workers at the Driving and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) entered its second week on Monday.

The members of the PCS union at sites in Swansea and Nottingham are part of a long-running battle over working hours, working practices and job restructuring.

The PCS says the action by IT workers is part of a plan of rolling action in DVSA—and that other groups could soon be called out on strike.

Striking workers received messages of support from across the trade union movement.

●Show your support. Send solidarity messages to Midsbargaining@pcs.org.uk. Visit the picket line every day except bank holiday Monday outside The Axis Building, Nottingham from 7am to 9.30am each day, Monday to Friday. Donate to the strike fund online using account number 20331490, sort code 60-83-01, quoting reference DVSA strike fund

TRANSPORT

'Rock solid and united' against unsafe railways

WORKERS ON the South Western Railway line stood "rock solid and united" during their four-day strike which began on Friday last week.

And workers on the Merseyrail network struck on Tuesday of this week, with a further walkout set for Thursday.

The RMT union members on the two networks are fighting the imposition of driver only operated (DOO) services, which threaten their jobs and passenger safety.

It appeared that strikes had won workers assurances of

job and safety guarantees last September.

But walkouts resumed in June after bosses reneged on their promises.

The action comes as research by the RMT revealed that South Western is due to receive a "taxpayer funded strike bailout" of at least £32 million.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said, "Thanks to the generosity of the government South Western Railways don't lose a penny from strikes and therefore have little incentive to negotiate seriously."

RAIL ROUND-UP

One strike on, one strike off

WORKERS ON the Tyne and Wear Metro were set to stage a 48-hour strike from Friday.

The RMT union members are fighting for a pay regrading that would see skilled engineers, electrical and mechanical workers paid the same as technicians.

■THE RMT union has suspended walkouts on the Central and Victoria Tube lines following talks with Transport for London.

Workers were due to strike for 24 hours from Tuesday

of this week in two separate disputes.

The union says further negotiations are needed on the Victoria Line.

Workers are fighting unlawful deductions of wages, enforced overtime and noise levels on the underground line.

The RMT said the Central line dispute is now resolved.

Workers were battling chronic understaffing, imposition of rosters, management bullying and a host of other issues.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bromley library strikers can bring bosses to book

LIBRARY WORKERS on strike in south east London were set to protest outside a council committee meeting on Tuesday night as Socialist Worker went to press.

Unite union members at the Tory-run Bromley council began an indefinite walkout over pay and terms and conditions in May.

They are fighting against bosses at Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL).

The "social enterprise" was set up by Greenwich council in 1993. It has grown into a sports and leisure giant that has swallowed up council services across the capital.

A group of Labour councillors proposed a motion calling for the council to review the library contract in June. It was

set to be discussed at the council's housing renewal, recreation and housing committee meeting.

Councillors also planned to look at GLL's performance over the last six months.

Kath, a Unite member and library worker, said, "GLL cannot run from this strike and they cannot hide. We will take our campaign to every GLL venue and make sure that everybody knows what this company is doing to our libraries."

Another Bromley library worker added, "They told us when we objected to the transfer of the libraries to GLL that there would be no loss of professional staff."

The workers should be brought back in house immediately.

BORDERS

Mamma Mia! Here we strike again at the Borders council

STRIKING COUNCIL road workers in the Scottish Borders demonstrated outside the local authority's headquarters last week.

Unite union members are taking action over their terms and conditions.

They gathered outside the offices in Newtown St Boswells to coincide with a full council meeting. They

waved flags, shouted slogans and played Money Money Money by Abba.

The council is run by an alliance of Tories and independents.

Unite regional industrial organiser Willie Thomson said the dispute could put the region's winter maintenance programme at risk.

GREENWICH

HOUSING WORKERS at Greenwich council in south east London could walk out next month.

The Labour-run council wants to jettison a productivity agreement—a move which could see workers lose thousands of pounds a year.

The Unite union ballot ends on 30 September.

Onay Kasab, the Unite regional officer, said, "The proposed withdrawal of this six-year-old agreement will see housing staff losing out to the tune of £10,000 a year.

"To lose this enormous amount is a massive blow to their incomes when the cost of living in London, one of the world's most expensive cities, is sky-high."

CLEANERS

Cleaners fight to sweep away poverty pay on track

OUTSOURCED workers at Network Rail descended on Liverpool Lime Street station to demand "justice for cleaners" on Friday last week.

The cleaners, who are RMT union members, are outsourced to Mitie and are paid below the living wage of £9 an hour.

Workers drummed up support by leafletting commuters and encouraging

them to sign a petition which boasts over 60,000 signatures.

The campaign said, "Mitie Group paid nearly £49 million to its shareholders in dividends in the last five years.

"But it won't pay its cleaners the real living wage.

"Network Rail is a multimillion pound public company that should not be allowing its contractors to pay poverty wages."

The north rebels over climate crisis

Sarah Bates reports from a weekend of Extinction Rebellion protests in Manchester

THE CLIMATE emergency was brought to life in central Manchester this weekend as activists from Extinction Rebellion (XR) mounted a four-day occupation.

Hundreds of rebels staged a “Northern Rebellion” on Deansgate, a main thoroughfare of the city.

It was part of the “Rebel Risings” series of protests that also saw hundreds gather in south London for a two-day event.

Activists in north London and Devon are busy preparing similar events for this weekend.

A marquee in Manchester saw workshops to plan future activity, while a “rebel school” hosted talks and training.

Stand Up To Racism collected aid inside a rescue boat for refugees.

Ben, a student, has never been involved in political activity before.

But since joining XR in February he has been out on the streets and has

Join global climate strike



**On Friday
20 September**

found the experience “really empowering”.

He spent the day blasting soul music from a sound system and leafleting passers-by.

“We’re making people aware via disruption—we need to make the government actually interested in climate change,” said Ben.

Fourteen year old Hannah talked from the main stage

about her experiences as a climate striker.

“For me, this is about raising my voice,” she said.

“It’s so easy to feel unimportant and irrelevant but together we are raising our voices and feeling empowered.”

“I have never been to an XR event before, but I feel sure I’m acknowledged and relevant.”

At a workshop on organising trade unions and XR, workers discussed plans for the upcoming 20 September strikes.

They also discussed how to deepen involvement from workers within climate activism.

A workshop on XR and young people saw members of XR Youth—activists aged 24 and under—grapple with barriers to activism facing young activists.

Pressures

Many spoke about pressures from family members and patronising attitudes from older activists as some of the difficulties they had faced.

On Monday, activists finished the occupation by gluing themselves to Barclays and HSBC banks in Manchester.

With children participating in arts and crafts and families eating picnics on straw bales, the atmosphere was more village fete than insurrection.

But there is no doubt that rebels are preparing for 7 October, when thousands of activists will descend on London for the next rebellion.

It’s likely to thrust climate chaos to the top of the news agenda again, and the streets filled with debates about how to change the world.

With the Autumn Rebellion billed as a “movement of movements”, every socialist should be ready to take to the streets in October to be a part of it.

Hurricane Dorian

A WOMAN wades in a flooded street in Nassau, The Bahamas

Flooding and devastation in Bahamas

THE BAHAMAS has suffered death and extreme devastation as a result of Hurricane Dorian, which battered the Grand Bahama Island for more than 24 hours.

The slow-moving Dorian is one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, and reached winds of 185 miles per hour. Prime minister of The Bahamas Hubert Minnis said on Monday, “We are in the midst of a historic tragedy in parts of our northern Bahamas.

Residents were trapped by rising floodwaters, and at least two official storm shelters were flooded.

People were forced to make treacherous

journeys during the storm to seek new refuges. And the water rose so high that many were forced to crawl inside their roof spaces to escape.

At least five people were confirmed dead in the Abaco Island in northern Bahamas as Socialist Worker went to press.

The final toll will be much higher.

Some 70,000 people live on the Abaco and Grand Bahama islands, which both sit around 12 metres above sea level at their highest points.

They’ve had to endure storm surges of up to 5.5 metres above normal tide level.

Charities estimate that as many as 13,000 houses

have been destroyed or severely damaged.

Preparations in the US saw nine counties in Florida issue mandatory evacuations.

The east coast of Florida, which sits around 100 miles from the Bahamas, was already experiencing strong gusts and high surf on Tuesday.

Dorian is an insight into future climate chaos. Research released last November shows that climate change worsened the most destructive hurricanes.

Researchers warned that if temperatures continue to rise by 3 or 4 degrees than hurricane rainfall and wind speeds will both significantly increase.

Suspended sentences for four anti-fracking activists

THE BATTLE against fracking hit a critical point this week, as three anti-fracking activists appeared in Manchester Civil Justice Centre for sentencing.

Katrina Lawrie, Christopher Wilson and Lee Walsh were found in contempt of court in June for breaking an injunction. The injunction prevented protests outside Cuadrilla’s Preston New Road site.

The judge imposed a four week prison sentence suspended for two years on three of the campaigners and

The convicted activists

a two month sentence suspended for two years imposed on the other campaigner.

Before sentencing, the activists’ legal team argued the terms of the injunction should be changed to make it less restrictive.